

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 8 are now pending in the application.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 17 – 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dominke et al. (WO 02/32742) in view of Ichimaru (U.S. Pat. No. 5,924,703). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17 – 21 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject-matter contained therein. Therefore, the rejections have been rendered moot.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject-matter of claims 1 – 8.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 11, 2005

By:

  
Ryan P. McCarthy, Reg. No. 50,636

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

PER/RPM